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(54) Title: IMPROVED INVESTMENT CASTING PROCESS

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention provides a method for production of a shell mould. The method comprises the sequential steps of: (i) dipping a preformed expendable pattern into a slurry of refractory particles and colloidal liquid binder whereby to form a coating layer on said pattern, (ii) depositing particles of refractory material onto said coating, and (iii) drying, steps (i) and (iii) being repeated as often as required to produce a shell mould having a primary coating layer and at least one secondary coating layer, characterised in that during at least one performance of step (ii) a gel-forming material is also deposited onto the coating layer formed in step (i). The invention also relates to a shell mould producible by the method.

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